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Pearl River BSUers take on Peru missions

By Morris Baker, Director
Pearl River C.C. BSU

Nineteen people from the Baptist Student Union (BSU) at Pearl River Community College (PRCC) in Poplarville recently participated in a missions project to Peru on May 15-26.

The project was coordinated by Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries Kevin and Pam Shearer and PRCC BSU director Morris Baker.

The Shearers are both natives of Jones County.

Fifteen students and four adults traveled over 6,000 miles to Arequipa, the second largest

city in Peru, with a population of over one million people. Less than 10,000 claim to be evangelical Christians.

Arequipa, also known as the "white city" because of the volcanic rock unique to the area, is in southern Peru.

Under the leadership of the Shearers, the BSU volunteers conducted a week-long ministry in six

of the eight Baptist churches in Arequipa.

After assisting two of the churches with Sunday morning worship, the group divided into two teams, with each team min-

istering in two churches over the next six days.

Team members spent mornings conducting evangelistic surveys, prayer walks, and ministry to school-aged children. The survey work alone resulted in about 40 professions of faith. Afternoon ministries included Vacation Bible School and other outreach activities.

Worship services were conducted each evening. Team members led in worship through puppets, drama, music, testimonies, and preaching.

Because few of the BSU volunteers spoke Spanish, they had to depend upon interpreters to help them communicate. The work relationships produced significant friendships.

Also, this was the first time many of the group had ever met a missionary family. They found that the Shearers were an ordinary family who have responded in an extraordinary way to God's call.

By the end of the week the BSUers had seen 117 professions of faith in Christ and at least 20 recommitments. Not only did the work have an impact on the people of Peru, but many of the BSU students made important decisions regarding missions.

Chrissie Phillips, a sophomore from Picayune, said, "This trip put direction in my life."

Jennifer Cottrell, a freshman from Lumberton who feels called to missions, said, "I just think this was the most incredible experience. I hope God can use us to encourage more students to become involved in missions."

Dustin Stockstill, a sophomore

from Picayune, said, "This trip confirmed my call into career foreign missions."

In all, eight students and two adults made personal commitments to be more involved in missions.

After working long hours (12-14 hour days) with little sleep, the group not only left behind their puppets and other supplies for the churches, they also gave a love offering of \$300 to Cayma Baptist Church, their host church in Arequipa.

After a day of touring in Lima, the natives of Jones County, live in Peru with capital, the group returned home.



MISSISSIPPI MISSIONARY FAMILY — IMB

Missionaries Kevin (left) and Pam Shearer, daughters Melissa (front center), Michelle (top left), and Kimberly. (BR special photo)



ALL SMILES — BSU adult volunteer Elizabeth Hathcock (center), the Spanish instructor at PRCC, is surrounded by new friends at the New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Arequipa, Peru. (BR special photo)



PLENTY OF ROOM — BSU Students and their Peruvian interpreters pack the back of a missionary's truck. Getting around in Arequipa proved to always be an adventure. (BR special photo)

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Glorieta lodge burns

Family Festival sizzles

BHS sets Brandon project

Letters to the editor

Nominations sought

SALT LAKE CITY (BP) — Nominations for the 1999 presentation of the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives' Mrs. J. M. Dawson Distinguished Service Award are in the process of being collected and evaluated.

The award will be presented June 15, 1999, when ministers' wives hold their annual luncheon in Atlanta on the first day of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting.

Established in the 1950s and presented only nine previous times, this award is presented for "distinct denominational contribution beyond the local church" when the executive committee of the Ministers' Wives Conference feels it is advisable, according to the bylaws of the SBC Ministers' Wives Conference.

Award recipients are chosen by the group's executive committee, composed of past presidents, current officers, nominees for office and all committee chairpersons.

Nominations should be sent to Lynda Estep, wife of Wendell Estep, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C., at P.O. Box 1000, Columbia, SC 29202.

Looking back

10 years ago

Southern Baptists remain divided over the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) controversy, the convention's state newspaper editors agree. Jerry Vines' razor-thin election to the SBC presidency marks the 10th consecutive presidential victory by conservatives.

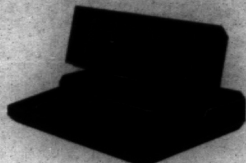
20 years ago

Through the first nine months of the 1978-79 fiscal year, giving to the SBC Cooperative Program is running 11.04% ahead of last year. CP giving in June alone increased 22.72%, according to the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville.

50 years ago

The Mississippi College enlargement campaign is showing concrete results as the campus takes on a "new look." Most impressive is the nearly-completed administrative building just west of the science hall. The exterior of Nelson Hall is finished, with only the clock tower remaining to be completed.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Seeing Christ in everything we do

In 1996 a popular young preacher in Atlanta, Georgia, announced that he was starting a new church in a developing residential area of that burgeoning southern metropolis. The congregation's first service, held in a rented warehouse, attracted some 1,600 persons, many of whom had roots in the Southern Baptist Convention. The young minister soon made clear, however, that his new church would not affiliate with the SBC, and he offered three basic reasons. First, he suggested that the name Southern Baptist is so politicized that it often discourages persons from uniting with such a church. Second, the literature produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board was not appropriate for the church he was forming. Third, many of his new church members did not wish to contribute exclusively to the Cooperative Program, the denomination's collective funding mechanism. While such comments seem appropriate for so-called moderates in the convention's recent controversies, they were made by none other than the Reverend Andy Stanley, son of Dr. Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and fundamentalist patriarch.

— Bill Leonard
"Baptists in the South: A New
Connectionalism," *Review and
Expositor*, 95 (1998)

Fundamentalist, conservative, moderate, liberal, or back bencher — put aside for a moment the Southern Baptist label with which you are most comfortable and ask yourself some difficult questions.

Are we reaping the whirlwind of the last 20 years? Is the future of evangelism changing under our feet while we concentrate on tagging each other with hurtful words? What conclusions can an ever-skeptical, unchurched public derive from our conduct?

Most importantly, are lost people seeing Christ in everything we do?

As there are 15 million Southern Baptists, there are likely 15 million different opinions in response to those difficult questions. Some people believe we are hitting home runs, and some people believe we're striking out.

Every one is entitled to his/her opinions, but one great truth remains: If every action we take is not geared toward bringing a lost world to Jesus, we have failed our Lord and Savior.

Put another way, if any action we take is intended for anything other than the glorification of Christ, we're in trouble.

The most influential denominations in the world mean nothing to God, if those denominations lose sight of the Great Commission (Matt. 28:16-20). Lofty academic credentials and high office won't count for much in the end, if we detour even for a brief time from our original mission.

The Father is not nearly as impressed with voluminous spreadsheets and financial powerhouses, as he is with our zeal for saving every unsaved person on earth. Bible history

"NOW LET'S US ALL STAND
AND SING TOGETHER ANYTHING
YOU'D LIKE — EVERYONE DO
HIS OWN THING! PERSONALLY,
I'LL BE SINGING 'HAVE THINE
OWN WAY LORD'!"



is filled with people who digressed from their calling, and the consequences of those lapses. Let us not be counted among them.

Are lost people seeing Christ in everything we do? If so, there's no need to answer those other difficult questions. If not, there are a lot more difficult questions for which we will answer some day.

Let us covenant together to accomplish the former, and avoid the latter.

PRESIDENT'S JOURNAL

Hope at the end of our rope

By Dean Register, president
Mississippi Baptist Convention



A few years ago I took a group of Royal Ambassadors on a campout. Every man in America needs that experience at least once just to keep him humble.

The boys were so hyper I considered taking a couple of "no-doz" just to stay alert. When they pitched their tents on the slope of a mud bank, I knew it would be a long 24 hours.

I began to pray for patience — until I remembered the Scripture verse that said suffering can produce patience. I've experienced some weary nights in ministry, but that one was close to a record.

After a sleepless night of comforting the fearful and threatening the rebellious, the light of day was a welcome sight.

About mid-morning the boys devised a tug-of-war game. They dug a trench 12 feet long by 12 feet wide and nearly three feet deep.

They hauled trash and ashes from the fire, piled them in the middle, and mixed in buckets of muddy water.

The game was set. With ten boys on one side and seven on the other, the object was to pull one team into the slop trough.

Obviously, the team with ten boys had an advantage and would have handily won except for one addition on the other side: "Easy Ben."

Ben was twice the size of an average 10 year old. He was quiet and compliant. I really liked the kid! When Ben waddled up to the game, the team with seven shouted for help.

I watched as Ben grabbed the end of the rope. New enthusiasm surged through the boys.

Ben used his powerful legs to work against the ten. Suddenly, a victory roar erupted as Ben carried his smaller and fewer teammates to victory while the others took a mud bath.

Later that afternoon during a much-needed Bible study period, one of the boys drew an

insightful analogy. He said, "The only reason we won the tug-of-war was not because we were stronger or better. It was only because of who was at the end of our rope."

Ben smiled shyly, feeling a little embarrassed by all the attention.

I found myself drawing an analogy too. None of my victories in life have occurred because of my own strength.

I have never been able to overpower the Devil by my own spiritual muscle. My only hope resides in the One who holds the end of my rope.

In Christ alone I put my faith. He's the only one who is able to secure the victory that lasts throughout eternity.

When I consider that he saved me not because I am

worthy, but because he loved me, how could I possibly boast of my own merit?

When I remember that he humbled himself for my sake and submitted to death on the cross, would I dare desire anyone else at the end of the rope?

The Devil is a crafty adversary. He knows how to lure us into the trash heap of discouragement. He knows how to maneuver us into the mud hole of controversy.

Unless we look to Jesus for victory and place our trust in him, we will surely fail.

Amy Carmichael was a missionary and a prayer warrior. At a strategic time in her life she felt fearful about her future.

Overwhelmed by loneliness she cried, "Lord, what can I do? How can I go on to the end?"

During that tender plea the Lord whispered hope to Amy through his word: "None of them who trust in me shall be desolate." (Psalm 34:22).

We move forward by faith knowing that with Jesus Christ we will never be left in the struggle.

He is our hope when we come to the end of our rope.

Register is pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg

Campers escape injury in Glorieta fire

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — A fire started by a faulty electric blanket destroyed Cedar Lodge at the Southern Baptist Convention's Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center in the early hours of June 21, but the 65 teenage girls and their sponsors staying in the building were evacuated to safety.

"We're so grateful the Lord gave safety to everyone involved," John Horton, director of operations at Glorieta.

The guests staying in Cedar Lodge were attending one of 10 weeklong Centrifuge youth camps held each summer at the conference center. They are members of four Southern Baptist churches: Eastside Church, Fort Smith, Ark.; First Church, Belen, N.M.; First Church, Mineral Wells, Texas; and College Place Church, Monroe, La.

Glorieta is one of two national conference centers owned and operated by LifeWay Christian Resources (formerly Sunday School Board) of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Horton said a few of the guests returned home after the fire, but most were moved to other lodging on campus.

Baptist Book Store manager Mike Goff provided clothing items from the store to guests who escaped the lodge with only the clothes they were wearing.

The conference center provided transportation to Santa Fe and some funds toward purchase of needed items. Conference center insurance will cover the loss of guests' personal belongings.

A smoke alarm alerted the youth and adult in the room where the fire had broken out at the foot of the bed shortly about 1:40 a.m.

While an effort was made to extinguish the flames, Horton said the priority was to get everyone out of the building.

He expressed amazement at the sight of the flames "going straight up," barely scorching trees in front of the lodge. "We've had strong winds the past several days."

Conference Center director Larry Haslam added, "The fact

that the wind wasn't blowing was absolutely a miracle."

Haslam was in Birmingham on Saturday night but rushed back to the conference center, arriving Sunday morning.

Cedar Lodge is located just 40 feet from a Centrifuge boys' dorm, Spruce Lodge, and 60 feet from Chaparral, a hotel housing some of the 695 guests attending a June 19-22 Sunday school leadership conference.

These and two other buildings were evacuated during the fire, but guests were able to return to their rooms Sunday afternoon.

By the time fire trucks from seven communities were on the scene, leaders had accounted for everyone in the building. Firefighters complimented the evacuation process. Knowing that no one was in the building, they said they were able to concentrate on the fire.

Haslam praised Glorieta staff members for following emergency plans the conference center had in place. He attributed the speed of the evacuation, in part, to the presence of smoke alarms which he said are in every hotel room on campus.

Also, he said an evaluation will be conducted of plans and of future preventive actions.

Fire departments responding to the alarm were from Glorieta, Pass, Pecos, Santa Fe (city), Santa Fe County, Hondo, Eldorado, and Ilfeld.

The fire was under control by 4 a.m., but officials remained on the scene Sunday afternoon, securing the area and completing their investigation.

One adult sponsor reported the loss of her wedding ring to a firefighter, who later located the ring and returned it to the guest.

Santa Fe County Fire Marshall Hank

Blackwell attributed the cause of the fire to an electric blanket brought by a guest. Bedding

provided by Glorieta does not include electric blankets.

Haslam said Sunday night the building is a total loss with only a few walls left standing. The building was cordoned off and security guards posted.

He said as soon as insurance investigators complete their work, a fence will be constructed to secure the area.

He commended Centrifuge staff for their assistance to the Cedar Lodge guests and the more than 500 other youth attending the camp.

The Sunday schedule was reduced in light of the fire, but a worship service was held Sunday night with other activities resuming Monday.

He said volunteers on campus as well as others from the nearby towns Glorieta and Pecos arrived to help. Some moved vehicles to safety.

In the Sunday morning worship service of the Sunday School leadership conference, a special offering was taken to assist guests in replacing belongings.

Funds also were given by volunteers who helped with the fire, by Glorieta staff and by persons who dropped money by the conference center lobby desk

without leaving their names.

An offering was taken by the Catholic mission located in the nearby town of Glorieta. By Sunday evening, more than \$3,100 had been contributed.

Haslam said plans are in process to make adjustments to house all guests for the remainder of the summer.

Mike Arrington, executive director for corporate affairs at LifeWay Christian Resources, commended the Glorieta staff, fire officials and guests for their handling of the fire and in meeting needs of guests from Cedar Lodge.

"We give praise to the Lord that no one was injured," Arrington said.

Arrington said construction of a building to replace Cedar Lodge will be considered as part of overall master planning for the conference center.



THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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TOTAL LOSS— A fire fighter sprays water on smoldering "hot spots" on the remains of Cedar Lodge at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center, Sunday afternoon, June 21. Earlier that morning, fire had ravaged the building, but all 65 guests were evacuated safely. (Photo by Stan Abbott)

Miss. CP shows increase

Mississippi Baptists gave \$2,349,515 through the Cooperative Program (CP) in June, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which disburses the funds.

June gifts are \$624,330 higher than those of June 1997. Total gifts for 1998 are \$374,281, or 2.93% higher than for the same period in 1997.

Total gifts for 1998 are also \$380,079, or 2.98%, higher than the pro rata budget amount for the first six months of the year. The pro rata budget is figured by taking the total 1998 budget of \$25,546,608, dividing by 12, and multiplying by the number of months elapsed in the year.

The Cooperative Program is a voluntary unified budget program which funds Southern Baptist causes in Mississippi and around the world.

The Cooperative Program helps fund the Older Children's Retreat at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, July 16-18; and Youth Night at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson, July 24 and 25.

SBC CP takes big jump

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) receipts for June increased a whopping 25% over the same month a year ago, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee. The June receipts, \$15,052,870, compared to June 1997, \$12,024,314, are an increase of \$3,028,556 or 25.19%.

For the SBC fiscal year, Oct. 1 through June 30, SBC CP gifts total \$119,129,676 compared to the previous fiscal year period of \$116,858,328, an increase of \$2,271,348 or 1.94%.

Designated gifts for June also soared: \$14,824,922 compared to June 1997 of \$11,580,383, an increase of \$3,244,539 or 28.02%. For the fiscal year, designated gifts rose to \$137,598,745 compared to the previous year period of \$131,341,935, an increase of \$6,256,809 or 4.76%.

For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the June receipts exceeded the \$12,348,756 monthly requirement by \$2,704,114, an increase of 21.90%. For the nine months of the fiscal year, the budget allocation requirement of \$111,138,807 has been surpassed by \$7,990,868, an increase over budget of 7.19%.

VBS tops three million

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Almost 3.3 million people enrolled in Southern Baptist Vacation Bible Schools in 1997 and more than 53,000 professions of faith were reported, according to statistics recently released by LifeWay Christian Resources (formerly Sunday School Board) of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In other statistics from the '97 report, Martin said:

- ◆ 1,758 decisions for church-related vocations were reported;

- ◆ 41,731 students were enrolled in Sunday School through the VBS transfer plan; and

- ◆ 58% of Bible schools were held at night, 35% in the morning, 2% in the afternoon and 5% at a combination of times.

Ala. executive announced

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)—Alabama pastor Rick Lance, 47, was elected executive secretary-elect of the Alabama Baptist State Convention by the convention's state board of missions at a June 16 meeting in Montgomery.

Lance, pastor of First Church, Tuscaloosa, Ala., since 1983, will succeed Troy Morrison, the convention's executive secretary since 1990 who has announced his retirement effective Jan. 31, 1999.

Lance was the state convention's 1990-92 president, 1983-85 first vice president and a 1979-83 member of the state executive board. He will begin working alongside Morrison July 15 and assume the executive secretary's post Feb. 1.

Lance is a current trustee of convention-related Judson College in Marion and was a trustee of Samford University in Birmingham from 1988-92.

In the Southern Baptist Convention, Lance was a trustee of the Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board) from 1985-95.

Dobson has stroke shortly after SBC meet

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (BP) — James Dobson, president and founder of Focus on the Family, returned to work June 23 less than a week after suffering a stroke shortly after he returned from addressing the Southern Baptist Convention in Salt Lake City.

In an emotional, unexpected appearance before 1,300 staff members at the Colorado Springs, Colo., ministry, Dobson described his wife, Shirley, as "the heroine of this episode" for her quick action in summoning emergency medical attention when his stroke symptoms first appeared the evening of June 16 at their home.

"I have to say that I just have witnessed a miracle," Dobson said during the 35-minute meeting, according to Focus on the Family's Pastor's Weekly Briefing.

"My two physicians said they've never seen anyone recover from a stroke that quickly," he said.

Shirley Dobson credited her husband's recovery to the fact that "millions of people around the nation and the world (were) praying for him."

According to the pastors' newsletter, physicians assessed Dobson's condition and quickly administered a new medicine, TPA (tissue plasminogen activator), which must be done within three hours after a stroke.

Dobson told Focus employees TPA has

been used only since 1996 and remains a dangerous medicine that can sometimes cause hemorrhaging and even death.

Still, Dobson was unable to speak for the first 12 hours after the stroke.

"I couldn't speak. I couldn't work my hand. I couldn't write," Dobson recounted.

"I didn't understand a lot of what was going on. It was a very scary event."

Dobson's stroke, the newsletter said, was caused by a tiny blood clot the size of a pinhead that had lodged itself in the left temple lobe of his brain, the eloquence cortex, the part of the brain responsible for speech, writing, understanding and creativity.

"everything that I am," Dobson said.

The next morning, Dobson's condition "improved literally by the

hour," H.B. London, a Focus vice president, said, according to Zondervan News Service.



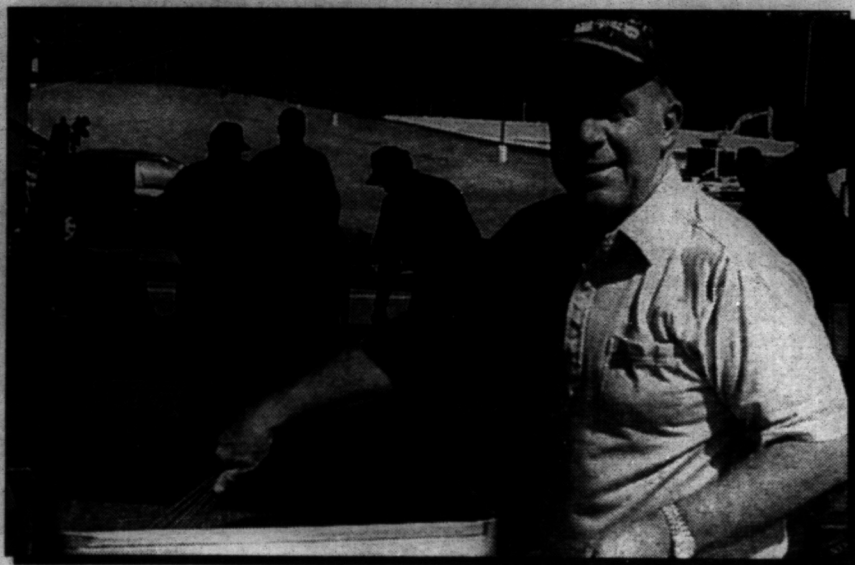
Dobson

CWJC training



T. J. Williams (left) and Linda Gwathney (right), both of San Antonio, join Linda Tate of Brandon in leading training for the Christian Women Job Corp (CWJC) May 22 at University Church, Hattiesburg. CWJC is holistic training program for women in need. The Hattiesburg training session was the second in Mississippi. A central Mississippi training opportunity will be offered later in the year. For more information contact the Mississippi WMU at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 925-0150 or toll-free outside Jackson (800)748-1651. (Photo by Carl M. White)

Family Festival '98 sizzles on perfect summer day



People attending the June 27 Family Festival '98, sponsored by the equipping team of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, enjoyed a perfect — if sizzling — summer day at host Parkway Church in Clinton. Jerald Welch (top left), director of missions for Holmes and Humphreys Counties, prepared spaghetti sauce for the evening meal at the Mississippi Baptist



Disaster Relief Unit, while Ron Mumbower (top right), counseling and congregational care pastor at First Church, Jackson, led an afternoon seminar. Participants also took a shot at the dunking booth (bottom left) while Christian vocalist Matt Blagg (bottom right) of Norman, Okla., performed under the main tent. (Photos by William H. Perkins Jr.)



BHS to construct retirement community

Baptist Health Systems (BHS) has announced plans to construct a retirement community in the Crossgates area of Rankin County.

The project, to be located on an undeveloped 6.8-acre tract of land bounded by Crossgates Boulevard, Crossgates Drive and Burnham Road, will provide a senior center, as well as 50 assisted living units, 50 independent living units and an adult day care center.

Construction is set to begin in the fall of 1998.

The 105,000-square-foot project will be constructed in two phases: Phase I, consisting of a 11,000-square-foot senior center/medical clinic, followed by the 87,000 foot assisted living/independent living facility in Phase II. A 6,300 square foot daycare center is planned for a later phase.

The senior center will consist of two medical clinics, a "seniors-only" clinic and an adult primary care clinic, with space for four physicians. Included will be examination and diagnostic rooms; an education/community center, including a conference room and two partitioned meeting rooms; a

rehabilitation facility, with rooms for exercise, physical therapy and hydrotherapy; offices for staff and support service personnel and community rooms.

The independent/assisted living facility will be constructed in Phase II, and will consist of apartments ranging in size from efficiency units to two-bedroom suites. Residents will be able to choose among efficiency, alcove, studio, and one/two bedroom layouts.

The unit will also include a full array of services including dining, laundry facilities, beauty/barber shop, multi-purpose rooms, game rooms, gift shop and chapel.

The daycare center will feature beauty/barber shops, arts and crafts room, library, meeting rooms for classes and seminars, and common areas. It will be open six days per week during daylight hours, and is planned to provide "threshold to threshold" service with transportation to and from the facility.

The campus will be designed as a "residential village" concept, and will connect all facilities with covered walkways, paths, drives, and landscaping. A garden area will be provided,

with space for residents to tend.

The Crossgates project follows Baptist's announcement in February of construction of Trace Pointe, a retirement community in Clinton.

In 1997, BHS opened Ridgeland Court, an assisted living facility in Ridgeland.

Kurt Metzner, BHS president and chief executive officer, noted that the projects reflect Baptist's commitment to meeting the healthcare needs of Mississippi's

growing senior population.

"We're proud to be able to provide services to the people of the Brandon area. As a healthcare provider, we are adapting to meet the needs of the people we serve," he said.

"Seniors have come to count on Baptist, and it's our goal to make sure we're responsive to their needs. Through projects such as these, we're working toward that goal," Metzner added.

Mississippians graduate SEBTS

Southeastern Seminary (SEBTS) in Wake Forest, N.C., held commencement exercises on May 23. Graduates with Mississippi connections are:

Southeastern College: Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies, James Paul Harris, Meridian.

Southeastern Seminary: Master of Arts in Christian Education, Charles Caughman Hahn, Columbia; and

Master of Divinity with Languages, Robert Allen Etheridge Jr., Greenville.

July 11 program to honor WMU's retiring Patterson

A program honoring Marjean Patterson, retiring executive director of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), for 41 years of service to WMU will take place at Camp Garaywa in Clinton on July 11 beginning at 10 a.m.

Patterson, who has served as executive director for 27 of those years, is retiring on Aug. 28.

The program will include Bill Causey, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB); his

wife Charlotte Causey, who will provide special music; Eugene Dobbs, MBCB executive assistant; Earl Kelly, former MBCB executive director; and Indy Whitten, missionary emeritus.

Friends of Marjean Patterson are invited to contribute to a book of letters that is being prepared. They can either bring letters to the program on July 11, or mail them to WMU (Book of Letters), P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tourney to benefit retirees

Community Bank of the Jackson area has joined hands with Raymond Road Church to bring the second annual Retired Ministers Benefit Golf Tournament at Brookwood Country Club on Forest Hill Road in Jackson, September 10-11, according to Andy Holder, coordinator of the event.

The tournament is an 18-hole scramble with a free breakfast for players starting at 8 a.m. and a free lunch for players playing at 1 p.m. The cost is \$65 per person, or if a team, \$60 per person. The fee includes cart, green fee, meal, and soft drinks.

The first Retired Ministers Benefit Golf Tournament raised \$5,800 for the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention's Adopt an Annuity program, which provides retirement funds for retired ministers and/or their spouses who do not have an annuity and for those whose annuity is inadequate to meet their needs.

According to Holder, there are 1,041 retired ministers and their widows in Mississippi that are living below the poverty level. Many served before there was a retirement plan, or served in churches that did not provide retirement benefits.

A special account has been set up at the Annuity Board in Dallas for Mississippians only, Holder pointed out. The funds raised in this tournament will go only to this account.

"Every Christian who is a golfer should jump at the opportunity to participate in the second annual tournament," Holder said.

In addition, Holder pointed out that Nolan Glisson of Gray-Daniels Ford in Brandon is offering a \$500 cash prize in a "closest to the pin" contest. To qualify for the cash prize, a golfer must register to play before September 1, 1998.

There will be other prizes, along with gifts at registration, according to Holder.

For more information or to register for play, contact Raymond Road Church, 4622 Raymond Road, Jackson, MS 39212. Telephone (601) 372-6154; or contact Andy Holder at 5314 Castlewood Circle, Jackson, MS 39212. Telephone (601) 373-9520.

Miss. natives finish Mid-America

Mid-America Seminary in Germantown, Tenn., held graduation on May 8. The following Mississippi residents were members of the graduating class.

Receiving the master of divinity degree were Steven Shawn Davis of Ripley, pastor of Mt. Olive Church, Blue Mountain, and Bobby Joe Wiggins Jr. of Columbia.

Receiving the doctor of ministry degree was Clarence Leonard Sullivan of Tupelo, pastor of Parkway Church, Tupelo.



Sullivan

The Jewell and Georgia Kyzar Scholarship Fund for Ministerial Students will go toward funding the education of students enrolled at Mississippi College (MC). The recipient(s) will be recommended by the Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy in conjunction with the Office of Financial Aid. Georgia Kyzar, now a resident of the Plantation Retirement Home near Meadville, met with Howell Todd, president of MC, to sign an agreement for the creation of the scholarship fund. Jewell Kyzar died of heart failure on Dec. 29, 1990.

Mississippi College (MC) held at the new MC Tennis Office of Continuing Education will host three separate tennis camps in July. All classes will be held at the new MC Tennis Center with David Boteler as the head instructor. For additional information call (601) 925-3263.

Nominees requested

The Committee on Nominations solicits your recommendations for individuals to serve on the boards and commissions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

According to David Raddin, committee chairman and pastor of First Church, Yazoo City, a limited number of vacancies will be filled on the following boards and commissions:

Board of Ministerial Education
Christian Action Commission
Education Commission
Historical Commission
Mississippi Baptist Children's Village
Mississippi Baptist Health Systems Inc., Jackson
Baptist Memorial Health Care Systems Inc., Memphis
Blue Mountain College
Mississippi College
Williams Carey College
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB)

The Nominating Committee will work in conjunction with the heads of the institutions and agencies in bringing a list of nominees to be approved by the messengers at the October 27-28, 1998, annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the MBCB Executive Director's office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.





Baptist Health System (BHS), Jackson, recently donated \$105,000 to help construct the Clinton Community Nature Center Education Building. Located on a 32-acre tract off Dunton Road, the 1,200 square-foot building will provide a place for visitors to attend forums and programs on nature topics. The Clinton Community Nature Center Association, which manages the property, recently dedicated a monument to honor Walter Edwin Price Sr. and Lulie Baley Price, who operated a dairy farm on the site for many years. The tract is adjacent to Trace Pointe, a retirement community being constructed by BHS. For more information, call the Baptist Health Line at 1-800-948-6262. Pictured: Kurt Metzner, president and CEO of BHS (right), presents a check to John King of Clinton, founder and president of Clinton Community Nature Center Association, Inc. Others (from left) are landowners Baley Price of Lawrence, Kan., Cora Lee Beers Price and Whitfield Price of Clinton.

"I'm Ready For My Rainbow, Lord" (Revell/Baker Bookhouse), the latest collection of poetry by Joy Morgan Davis, was published on May 1. Davis, a Mississippi College graduate, is the daughter of the late W. C. Morgan, who was for many years director of the Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. "Rainbow," described as a book of special inspiration for those quiet times of reflection, a true refreshing of the faith, is available at the Baptist Book Store and other Christian book stores," said Davis.



Davis

Pastoral Care Department of the Baptist Memorial Health Care in Memphis has developed a Web site at <http://www.bmhcc.org>. The pages include: a brief summary of what Pastoral Care is and what they have to offer; selections from "That Special Kind of Caring," the Pastoral Care prayer book offered to patients in the hospital; "Finding Your Way After Loss," ministers to people who have sustained a significant loss; children are able to visit "Buttons the Bear," and the last page extends the unique opportunity to interact directly with the ministry team by e-mailing comments, concerns or prayer requests.

REVIVAL DATES

Corinth, Magee: July 12-16; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Jim Butler, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, music; Dean Stewart, pastor.

Thorn Hill (Rankin): July 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Donnie and Cynthia Stuart, guest evangelists; Wesley Scott Walters, pastor.

Rock Hill, Brandon: July 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Harold Bryson, Clinton, evangelist; Tim Canterbury, pastor.

Gatesville, Crystal Springs: July 26-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Cliff Nelson, Bolton, evangelist; Roland Deer, Gatesville Church, music; Millard Mackey, pastor; July 25, Sons of Faith Quartet in concert at 7 p.m.

Friendship, McComb: July 12-15; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. and Tues., 7 p.m.; Wed., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Hardy R. Denham, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Phillip Alford, McComb, music; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.

Rocky Springs (Yazoo): July 30-Aug. 2; Thurs., Fri., and Sat., 7:30 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. with homecoming dinner afterwards; Dexter Truesdell, evangelist; Hully Williams and Mary Alice Williams, music; Roy Rodgers, pastor.

Macedonia (Lee): July 13-17; 7:30 p.m. each evening; Dwight Brown, pastor, evangelist; Billy Little, music.

Sarepta, Meadville: July 19-24; 7 p.m.; James Messer, Theodore, Ala., evangelist; Chuck McMinn, Meadville, music; Webb Armstrong, pastor.

Calvary, Columbus: July 12-16; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 12:15 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Michael Duff, Springfield, Tenn., evangelist; Michael Brown, Columbus, music; Duff will lead a witness training class on July 11, 9-11:30 a.m.

Moak's Creek, Summit: July 12-17; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish lunch, and 1:15 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Luther Price, Clarksdale, evangelist; Randy Carruth, McComb, music; Billy J. Howse, pastor.

Singleton, Louisville: July 19-24; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Rodger Griffith, evangelist; Patsy Moore, music; Charles Rook, pastor.



The children of Old Union Church, Shannon, presented opening ceremonies on Palm Sunday with a march down the isle and special prayer for names on "Palm Flowers" in the flower beds they made. Children participating were Brittany Harris, Cassie Waycaster, Morgan Taylor, Christopher Mallory, Kayla Reid, Kelly Spearman, William Reid, Jared Roberts, Chad Watson, Courtney Floyd, Ruth Ann Watson, Meagan Rowland, Amber Frederick, Seth Simmons, Sadie Simmons, and Summer Johnson.

HOMECOMINGS

Singleton, Louisville: July 19, 11 a.m.; lunch following morning service; Charles Rook, pastor.

Antioch, Columbus: July 26; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Jerry Lundy, Louisville, guest speaker; noon meal in fellowship hall; Edward Knox, pastor.

Sarepta, Meadville: July 26; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; wor-

ship, 11 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; cemetery council meeting will be held after meal; Daryl Oster, guest speaker; Webb Armstrong, pastor.

Goodwater (Smith): July 12; 11 a.m.; noon meal in fellowship hall; Goodwater Cemetery Associational meeting, 1:30 p.m.; John Adcock, Raleigh, guest speaker; Robin Brumfield, pastor.

GROWING CHURCHES CONFERENCES AT GULFSHORE

July 23-25

GROWING CHURCHES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY

WITH
Sam Cotter
Director
Sunday School Dept.
Colorado Baptist Convention



July 30 - Aug. 1

GROWING CHURCHES THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP

WITH
Rex Yancey
Pastor
First Baptist Church
Pascagoula



BOTH CONFERENCES INCLUDE:

- *TeamKID Clubs for all children
- *TeamKID Clubs for Older Preschoolers
- *Demonstration Lab School for Younger preschoolers
- *Discipling Bible Study for Youth

For more information call:
Don Hicks at
1-800-748-1651
or 968-3800 in Jackson area
or e-mail:
Don_Hicks@compuserve.com

For reservations call:
Frank Simmons
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at
(228) 452-7261
Have your Visa or Mastercard
ready for deposit.

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* Cushions * Baptistries
* Steeples * Renovation
* Pews and Pulpit
Furniture
(New and Used)

Wallace E. Foy

**WATTS 1-800-898-0551
Jackson 957-3762**

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 9, 1998

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

More
Than



A Gambling Conference Concerning Mississippi's Challenge

For All Church Leaders

September 21

First Baptist Church, Grenada

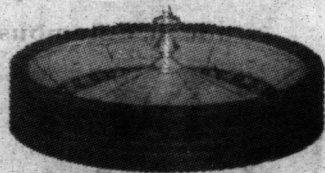
September 22

Park Place Baptist Church, Brandon

September 24

First Baptist Church Lyman, Gulfport

Risk



Sponsored by: Mississippi Baptist Task Force on Gambling,
Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, Inc.,
Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
FOR INFORMATION CALL 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, 968-3800

Program Personalities

John Eades, Ph.D., graduate of the University of Alabama; outreach coordinator for a geriatric psychiatric program at Southern Tennessee Medical Center; 20-year veteran in field of addictions treatment; a certified compulsive gambling, alcohol and drug addictions therapist; and a recovering compulsive gambler.

Larry Garner, director of church services, Metro Baptist Association.

Elizabeth Holmes, consultant for family and women's issues, Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

Paul Jones, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

Chuck Pourciau, pastor, First Baptist Church, Louisville, and chairman, Christian Action Commission.

Afternoon Session

1:00 Mississippi's Future.....Paul Jones
1:45 Plight of the ProdigalJohn Eades
3:15 Tools...Tools...ToolsElizabeth Holmes
4:30 Adjourn

Evening Session

6:15 Pathway to Recovery for the ProdigalJohn Eades
7:45 Gambling: Destroyer of Our FaithChuck Pourciau
How to Win Against Gambling.....Larry Garner

Jesus On Leadership

A Conference for Sunday School Directors
and Discipleship Training Directors

August 11, 1998, at Golden Triangle Baptist Association
Office Building, Columbus

August 13, 1998, at Poplar Springs Drive Baptist
Church, Meridian

Time: 6-9 p.m.

"A conference especially designed for Sunday School and Discipleship
Training directors. We will focus on what we can learn about leadership
by looking at the life of Jesus."

Speaker:
Gene Wilkes

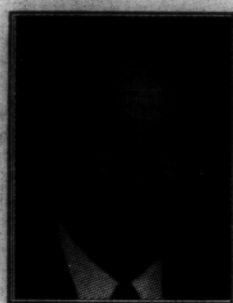
author of *Jesus On Leadership*



1998 Growing Churches Conferences

Growing Churches Through Bible Study July 23-25

Seminars on total church growth
with an emphasis
on Sunday School.



Guest Speaker
Sam Cotter, director of
Sunday School Dept.,
Colorado Baptist
Convention

Both Growing Churches conferences include:

Six Study Sessions Led by Specialists

Three Dynamic Worship Services

- Sam Cotter will be preaching during the Bible Study emphasis
- Rex Yancey will be preaching during the Discipleship emphasis
- Gordon Alford will be the worship leader & musician during the Discipleship emphasis

TeamKID Clubs for All Children

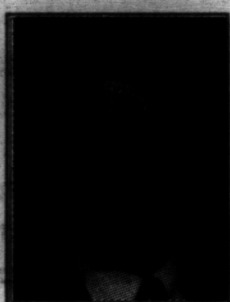
TeamKID Clubs for Older Preschoolers

Family Time on Friday Afternoons

Demonstration Lab School for Younger Preschoolers

Discipling Bible Study for Youth

Guest Speaker
Rex Yancey,
pastor of
FBC, Pascagoula



Growing Churches Through Discipleship July 30-Aug. 1

Seminars on total church growth
with an emphasis on
Discipleship and Family Ministry.

For reservation information, contact Frank Simmons, manager, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly,

100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571-3299

Telephone: (228) 452-7261 Fax: (228) 452-7263

NOTE: Mastercard and Visa can be used for reservations and payment of bill.

Super Summer '98

July 20-24

Mississippi College, Clinton

with

Rick Calowell

TIME 2
Make a Difference

Super Summer
Mississippi

1998

For more information, call the Discipleship and Family Ministry
Department at 1-800-748-1651.

The Power to Change Lives

**Sunday School
Leadership Conference**
September 11-12, 1998
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Pass Christian, Miss.

"The Aim"

To help leaders and teachers gain a power surge of
enthusiasm to become an effective evangelism force
for your church.



Color Your Year With Music

1998

**Preschool/Children's
Choir Leadership Training**

SCHEDULED PLACES & DATES

Saturday, August 15

FBC, Brandon

Preschool - Barry Tweedy

Younger Children - Katrina Marler

Older Children - Anthony & Judy Turner

1-6 Grades - Gloria Speed

Saturday, August 22

Harrisburg BC, Tupelo

Preschool - Debbie Wren

Younger Children - Charlotte McElroy

Older Children - Martha Robinson

1-6 Grades - Rhonda Armstrong

Saturday, August 22

Temple BC, Hattiesburg

Preschool - Barry Tweedy

Younger Children - Vicki Smith

Older Children - Tommy Gillon

1-6 Grades - Kathy Langworthy

Sponsored by the

Church Music Department

Sarah Talley, children's choir contract consultant

L. Graham Smith, director



CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCES

*Designed for music
leadership in smaller
membership churches:*

- bivocational/
volunteer ministers
of music
- choir members
- keyboard personnel

Guest Clinician - Elmo Mercer

July 23-24

Riverside Baptist Church, Clarksdale

6:30 p.m., Thursday-noon, Friday

July 24-25

Clear Creek Baptist Church, Oxford

6:30 p.m., Friday-noon, Saturday

July 30-31

Bissell Baptist Church, Tupelo

6:30 p.m., Thursday-noon, Friday

July 31-Aug. 1

Becker Baptist Church, Becker

6:30 p.m., Friday-noon, Saturday

Aug. 6-7

Glendale Baptist Church, Leland

6:30 p.m., Thursday-noon, Friday

Aug. 7-8

Enon Baptist Church, Grenada

6:30 p.m., Friday-noon, Saturday

Call the Church Music Department for more information or registration
forms at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 968-3800,
or register at the door at 6 p.m.

WMU Church Leadership Training Conference Camp Garaywa

JULY 27 - 30

Choose one of seven opportunities

Monday

10 am - 2 pm

6:30 pm - 9 pm

Tuesday

10 am - 2 pm

6:30 pm - 9 pm

Wednesday

10 am - 2 pm

No Session

Thursday

10 am - 2 pm

6:30 pm - 9 pm

AUGUST 14-15

**Church Leadership Training Overnight featuring
Wanda Lee, National WMU President**

- * At each of these training events, associational training and materials will be available for associational WMU leaders
- * Baptist Book Store display at all training events
- * Free materials from State office and WMU/SBC will be available

Pray this day for...

July 10- July 23, 1998

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

GLOBAL LOOK - "More than 30% of the world's people live in cities. Intercede for the 10 largest megacities and the Christians who witness and minister in them: 1. Tokyo. 28 million; 2. Sao Paulo. 22.6 millions; 3. Bombay. 18.1 million; 4. Shanghai. 17.4 million; 5. New York City. 16.6 million; 6. Mexico City. 16.2 million; 7. Beijing. 14.4 million; 8. Lagos. 13.5 million; 9. Jakarta. 13.4 million; 10. Los Angeles. 13.2 million." U.S. Prayer Track, May 1998

Every young man in Taiwan will spend two years in compulsory military service. Pray that the Holy Spirit will open up opportunities for a Christian witness on military bases.

12

Women's Recognition Sunday (Christian Action Emphasis). Gayle Leininger, in Lawrenceville, GA, is a national missionary working in literacy missions. Pray for national literacy missions leadership workshops conducted from time to time.

GA Summer Camp 13th-17th; Camp Garaywa; sponsored by the WMU. Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp 13th-17th; Central Hills Retreat; sponsored by the Brotherhood.

13

Regional ACTeam Training 20th; FBC, Grenada/FBC, Oxford; sponsored by the SS Dept. Super Summer 20th-24th; Miss. College; sponsored by D & F Ministry. GA Summer Camp 20th-24th. Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp 20th-24th. Young Musicians Camp 20th-24th; Blue Mountain College; sponsored by Church Music.

Missionary Rita Dean, in Japan, asks you to pray for a woman in her Bible class whose eyes filled with tears recently when she learned about the death and resurrection of Jesus. Pray that she will recognize God's work in her life and respond to Him.

14

Regional ACTeam Training 21st; Crossgates BC, Brandon/ 38th Avenue BC, Hattiesburg; sponsored by the Sunday School Department.

21

International Service Corps workers Ear and Shannon Midkiff arrived in Khabarovsk, Russia, May 24th to work with the Alaska /Far East Russia Partnership. Pray for the Midkiffs, that through their work with this partnership, many people will come to faith in Christ.

15

Saddleback Baptist Church in Lake Forest, California, had over 27,000 to attend their 18th anniversary service on Easter. Members brought their unsaved friends in record numbers. Thank the Lord that over 1,000 professions of faith were recorded!

22

Older Children's Retreat 16th-18th; Gulfshore Assembly; sponsored by the Equipping Team. Pray for the political situation in Albania to remain stable and to improve with time so that the gospel may be freely proclaimed there.

16

Town and Country Music Conference 23rd-24th; Riverside BC, Clarksdale; sponsored by Church Music. I GROWING CHURCHES THROUGH BIBLE STUDY 23rd-25th; Gulfshore; sponsored by MBOB. Church Media Library Conference 23rd-25th; Gulfshore; sponsored by Broadcast Services.

23

Lad/Dad Weekend Camp 10th-11th; Central Hills Retreat; sponsored by the Brotherhood.

10

Missionary Brent Ray is working with Prison Fellowship International and Prison to Praise groups to prepare for a congress to be held next year in the state of Bahia, Brazil. Praise God that they have been given an opportunity for the development of their prison chaplain internship and family ministry program throughout Bahia.

I Centrifuge 11th-16th; Gulfshore Assembly; sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Mary Webb and her husband, Denny, are Mission Service Corps volunteers serving as church planters in Youngstown, NY. Pray that God will provide a permanent meeting place for their ministry.

II Centrifuge 18th-23rd; Gulfshore Assembly; sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Bantheung Amonsin is a Messenger of the Word (bi-vocational pastor) at First Lao Mission Church, Van Buren, AR. Pray for him, his family, and the congregation.

18

Conference Leader

Our conference leader will be Emmanuel L. McCall, Sr., pastor, Christian Fellowship Baptist Church in College Park, Ga., which he founded in 1991. Prior to that he served for 23 years on the executive staff of the Home Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention.

From 1970 until 1996 McCall served as a visiting faculty member at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville,



Ky. A prolific writer, he has authored four books, contributed to the new Holman Bible Dictionary, and has written for numerous magazines and publications.

McCall also held the position of director of the Black Church Extension Division of the Home Mission Board from 1988 through 1991.

Growing Churches through Discipleship for African-American Churches

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
Pass Christian, Miss.

July 30-Aug. 1, 1998

Conference Theme

The Biblical Principles of Servant Leadership

The desired outcome of this conference is to produce skilled leaders in our churches who become Jesus models.

For more information, call Richard Brogan in the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 in Jackson.

HOUSE TOPS



GAs of First Church, Senatobia, recently honored in a Recognition Service were Rebecca Ozburn, Nici McLarty, Hailey McNulty, Taylor Busby, Ashton Godbold, Kayla Adair, Lauren Fore, Samantha Holden, Mallory McGehee, Chelsea Bailey, Samantha Webb, Sara McCrary, Courtney Hale, Stephanie Coleman, Michel Jarjoura, Jamie Chapius, Meghan Alford, Summers Godbold, and Whitney May. Emmy Jarjoura is director.

A "Childhood Education Workshop" will be held at First Church, Bossier City, La., July 31-Aug. 1; and at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS), Aug. 3-4. For further information, contact the Office of Continuing Education, NOBTS, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126, or call (504) 282-4455, ext 3260; or call Carolle Green, Louisiana Baptist Convention, 1-800-622-6549.



FAITH Sunday School Evangelism Strategy 1998-99 Training Clinics

The FAITH Sunday School Evangelism Strategy is a cooperative evangelistic venture of the North American Mission Board and The Sunday School Board.

For more information on locations and times, please call the *Church Program Training Center* of The Sunday School Board: 1-800-254-2022

Mississippi

OCTOBER 12-16, 1998
Trinity Baptist Church
Southaven, MS

Georgia

OCTOBER 12-16, 1998
Rehoboth Baptist Church
Tucker, GA

JANUARY 11-15, 1999

First Baptist Church
Snellville, GA

Tennessee

AUGUST 24-28, 1998
Central Baptist Church
Hixson, TN

SEPTEMBER 14-18, 1998
Clearview Baptist Church
Franklin, TN

SEPTEMBER 21-25, 1998
Wallace Memorial Baptist Church
Knoxville, TN

Louisiana

OCTOBER 5-9, 1998
Broadmoor Baptist Church
Shreveport, LA

JANUARY 18-22, 1999
New Orleans Baptist
Theological Seminary
New Orleans, LA

South Carolina

JANUARY 18-22, 1999
North Spartanburg
First Baptist Church
Spartanburg, SC

Alabama

AUG. 24-28 and NOV. 2-6, 1998
Vaughn Forest Baptist Church
Montgomery, AL

OCTOBER 5-9, 1998
Lakeview Baptist Church
Auburn, AL

Florida

SEPTEMBER 14-18, 1998
Olive Baptist Church
Pensacola, FL

SEPTEMBER 14-18, 1998
First Baptist Church
Merritt Island, FL

SEPTEMBER 28 - Oct 3, 1998
Idlewild Baptist
Tampa, FL

NOVEMBER 2-6, 1998
First Baptist Church
Daytona Beach, FL

Texas

AUGUST 10-14, 1998
Calvary Baptist Church
Beaumont, TX

AUGUST 24-28, 1998
Metropolitan Baptist Church
Houston, TX



Mt. Zion Church, Osyka, will celebrate its 160th anniversary on July 26 starting at 10:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Burn Page. Lunch will

be served at 11:30 a.m. in fellowship hall. Revelations Quartet of Jackson will be in concert at 1:30 p.m. Earl Warren Jr. is pastor.



A group from **Dumas Church, Dumas**, went to Clarksburg, W. Va., in June to assist in the renovation of Clarksburg Mission. The women conducted Bible studies in the park each day, resulting in five professions of faith. The building was almost completed. Marvin Robbins is pastor of Dumas Church. Participating on the mission trip were: (first row) Paula Childs, Johnny Hill, Gail Hill, Margaret Garrison, Harold Garrison; (second row) Sammy Crawford, Heath Pannell, Yvonne Jeanes, Robbins, Bill Self, and Lynwood Shackelford; (third row) Randy Stewart, Cole Childs, Stan Childs, Tommy Walter, Scott Hudson, and Mike Kent.

The student choir of **Petal-Harvey Church, Petal**, recently completed a six day choir tour. They sang in Honea Path, S. C., Richmond, Va., the Rotunda at the Russell Senate Office Building, as well as several impromptu concerts in the Washington area. The 43 students and sponsors traveled to the nation's Capitol. They are pictured in front of the White House. Bill Herman is music minister. Gerald Buckley is pastor.



Leesburg Church, Morton, held its ground breaking ceremony on Mother's Day. The church is building a new children's wing onto the education building. The new facility will increase by 100 in potential attendance capacity. This is phase one of a two phase plan. A fellowship hall or family life center will follow at a later date. Committee members are Gary Thrash, chairman; Roger McKay; Harris Havey; Ricky Waltman; Modean Cross; Glenda Alman; and Linda McKay. Odus Jackson is pastor.

VBS RESULTS



Slayden, Marshall Association: June 15-19; average attendance, 149; \$738.63 contributed by the children to further the work of missions; Gary Adams, pastor; Dinah Kay Lundine, VBS director.



Calvary, Meridian: June 8-12; a "penny contest" was held between the boys and girls; the boys won by a slim margin; total amount collected for the Baptist Children's Village was \$502.52; the children (pictured) are standing by buckets overflowing with pennies; O. Lyn Nations, pastor.



Kilmichael, Montgomery Association: the week's offering was designated to buy supplies for children in West Virginia; members of Kilmichael Church will be going with others from the Montgomery-Carroll Association to West Virginia and this offering will help buy supplies for Backyard Bible School.

Parkway, Houston: June 8-12; enrolled were 273 with an average daily attendance of 220; two professions of faith and several rededications; Greg Thomas, pastor.

Terry Road, Jackson: June 1-5; enrollment of 54; average attendance, 36; high attendance, 41; four professions of faith; Robert Perry, interim pastor.

STAFF CHANGES

Cason Church, Nettleton, called **Tony Inmon** as associate pastor. Inmon recently graduated from Blue Mountain College. He plans to begin studies on a part time basis at New Orleans Seminary.



Inmon

Holly Church, Corinth, called **B. Keith Dowden** as pastor effective in March of 1998. A native of Louisiana, Dowden received his education at Louisiana College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Ethel Church, Ethel.

First Church, Crystal Springs, called **Troy Ellis (Ted)**

Dukes Jr. as pastor effective June 8. A native of Jackson, Dukes is a graduate of Mississippi College, New Orleans Seminary, and earned a



Dukes

doctor of ministry degree from Reformed Theological Seminary. He previously served as pastor at Paul Truitt Memorial Church, Rankin Association.

Strong Hope Church, Wesson, has called **Troy Bankston** as pastor effective June 21. Bankston previously served as pastor for Eastwood Church, Indianola.

Custom Church Interiors, Inc.

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Pew Refinishing & Reupholstering
Stain Glass • Carpet • Lights
Painting • Baptisries • Steeples
Complete Renovations

1-800-654-1294

Jackson, MS 601-957-8844

CLASSIFIED ADS

RATE: 50 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads. ONLY WRITTEN ADS ACCEPTED.

CHURCH BUSES! CHURCH BUSES! SUMMER TIME CHURCH BUS SALE!!

(1) 1997 Blue Bird EZ Loader 31 passenger coach WAS \$94,642, Now \$84,500. Great for weekend trips. Can send pictures and information. Also 1987 Blue Bird All American 48 passenger \$22,500, 1978 MCI 8 47 passenger \$26,500, 1992 Diamond 35 passenger \$26,500, 1994 Blue Bird Q Bus 45 passenger \$94,000, 1994 Goshen 28 passenger \$36,000, 1995 Goshen 28 passenger \$37,500. Call us and check out pricing on all of our new equipment. Call Harry Hosey at Transportation South, Inc. 205-663-2287 in Birmingham, or 800-367-9463. Call today!

CHOIR ROBES & accessories, pulpit/judicial robes, paraments. MURPHY ROBES/Mac's Robes, Charles McGlocklin, Authorized Dealer. Statewide 1-800-898-MACS.

PASSENGER VANS FOR private and church groups. From \$59.95 per day/ limited free miles/7 to 15-seat. Occasionally for sale: quality used vans. Auto & Truck Rental, Jackson (601) 948-3391. Since 1965.

YOUTH OUTINGS? Paintball-games! Other functions! Curry Creek Outdoors. (601) 722-9000.

CFI — PEWS, NEW & used. Baptisries,

steeple, & stained glass, MS & ALA. 1-800-830-0583.

VINEYARD LABORERS NEEDED! Come plant seeds of "love, joy, peace... and self-control" and watch them grow in children's lives! Make a difference with your life. Come join our caring professional team - Florida Baptist Children's Home. Tallahassee needs a Christian couple without children. Excellent pay and benefits. (Base Salary for each house parent is \$14,635) Call Doug McWhirter at (850) 878-1458 for information. Pray for us.

WANTED: Used set of Malmark handbells, 3-5 octaves. Contact Joseph Robinson or Bill Taylor, Calvary Baptist church, 1121 Paul Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa, AL (205) 758-0495.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH seeks a Director of Preschool and Children Ministries. Send resume to PO Box 59474, Birmingham, Alabama 35259.

NOTCH ESTATES-BRANSON, MO. Condo near Silver Dollar City. 2BR, 2BA, sleeps 6. Stay 3 nights, 4th free; or 4 nights, 5th free. Free continental breakfast. \$105 daily. All visitors eligible for drawing to receive free 4 day return trip. Call (601) 746-4632.

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NAMES IN THE NEWS

Lorena Church was honored to have the only youth Bible driller in Smith Association. Nicky Henderson was a state participant in the 1998 Bible drill.



Henderson

Rosalie Welford and Glova McLeod received plaques for a total of 102 years of service and continue to serve in the children's department of Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale. Welford has served for 50 years and McLeod has served for 52 years. They were recognized and honored on Mother's Day. Pictured with Welford and McLeod is Jerry W. Mixon, pastor.



Mixon, Welford, McLeod



Liberty Church, Winston Association, recently held a deacon ordination and installation service for Sam Reed, J. W. McBrayer, and Jim Gregory. Pictured (from left) are Billy Wade Clark, chairman of deacons; McBrayer; Reed; and Danny Purser, pastor. Gregory is not pictured.

Leo Barker, former pastor/ DOM, dies

Funeral services for Leo Barker, 66, were held June 23 at the chapel of McClain-Hays Funeral Home in Philadelphia. Burial was in the Eastlawn cemetery. Barker died June 21 at his home.



Barker

Barker was born and reared in Kemper County. During his lifetime he served as pastor at Bluff Springs Church, Liberty Church, and Vardaman Church, in Kemper County; Noxapater Church in Winston County; Linwood Church, Mount Nelson Church, and East Philadelphia Church in Neshoba County; and First Church, Baldwin, for 18 years. He served as director of missions for Neshoba Association for eight years.

Barker was a graduate of New Orleans Seminary.

Survivors include his wife Bonnie Barker of Philadelphia; sons, Jackie Barker of Philadelphia, and Gary Barker of Ripley; five grandchildren; one great grandchild; sister, Ouida Ray Johnson of Verona; brothers, Bill Barker and Kevin Barker, both of Dekalb.



Hamilton, Ligon

John Bradley Ligon was licensed to the ministry on April 5 at First Church, Verona. He will be attending Blue Mountain College this fall. Pictured with Ligon (right) is David E. Hamilton, pastor.



QUESTION?

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Is the life of your family important to you? | Yes | No |
| 2. Are your finances causing concern or frustration? | Yes | No |
| 3. Do you find yourself borrowing from high interest companies or using credit more than cash? | Yes | No |
| 4. Are you living pay period to pay period, working to pay your way out of debt? | Yes | No |
| 5. Are you managing your finances, but feel like you're not accomplishing anything? | Yes | No |
| 6. Want to regain control and have peace and contentment in your home? | Yes | No |
| 7. Do you believe with help you could reach your goals and pay off debts? | Yes | No |

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Friendship East Church, Charleston, recently honored Zella Raney with a plaque for her 65 years of service to the church. Pictured with Raney is J. G. Thomas, pastor.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

SEEKING STUDENTS

Editor:

Heritage Baptist Church in Annapolis, Maryland, is seeking information on any students who will be attending the United States Naval Academy this year. The church has historically had strong ties to the Academy and would like the opportunity to minister to midshipmen. Please contact me at Heritage Baptist Church, 1740 Forest Drive, Annapolis, MD, 21401; call (410) 264-6680; or fax at (410) 263-0996.

Tom Mosser
Annapolis, Maryland

MORRIS RESPONDS

Editor:

In the "Commentary" by geologist David T. Dockery III published (on page 12 of) the June 18 issue of The Baptist Record, there are number of statements which need clarification.

As a life-long Baptist, it does concern me when Baptist scientists are so ready to accommodate Biblical revelation to current scientific theories. The fact is that the Bible does teach that a cataclysmic worldwide Deluge completely changed the earth in the days of Noah (see Genesis 6:12,13; Job 12:15; Matthew 24:37-39; Hebrews 11:7; 2 Peter 3:3-6; etc.). To caricature such records by making them teach either a "local flood" or a "tranquil flood" is unworthy of those who claim to believe in a verbally-inspired, authoritative Bible, as most Baptists historically have done. The book cited by Dockery (The Genesis Flood) outlines the Biblical evidences in some detail, and these evidences have never been answered by Dockery or anyone else.

We must interpret the scientific facts of geology in terms of the clear statements in God's Word — not distort the Scriptures to make them fit the theories of the scientific establishment. Christians should note that there are no written records of events earlier than about 4000 years ago. Older dates have to be guessed at by extrapolation of present process rates into the past by assuming that "all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they are willingly ignorant of, that ... the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished." (2 Peter 3:4-6).

Henry M. Morris,
president emeritus
Institute for Creation
Research (ICR)
Santee, Calif.

GOD VS. NATURE

Editor:

David T. Dockery III, used an article appearing in the June 11 edition of The Baptist Record as a launching pad to criticize Henry Morris and the book, "The Genesis Flood." Dockery said very little about the actual article featuring John Morris.

Dockery presents the typical uniformitarian arguments for an ancient earth, namely: fossils, radiometric dating, starlight distance, and ice cores. The ice cores are problematic for his own "millions and billions of years old" rock ages. Fossil indexing has properly been charged with a circular reasoning fallacy. Certain strata of rock are considered old by the fossils they contain within them. The fossils in turn are said to be ancient because of being in the lower strata of sedimentary rock. Radiometric

dating consists of extrapolating millions and billions of years from the known half-life readings of, for example, carbon 14, but a vapor canopy as described in Genesis would prevent the production of carbon 14 in the pre-Flood atmosphere, and thus give a false reading. Finally, the whole precarious enterprise rests upon the presumption that biological evolution is an irrefutable fact!

He ends his article with reference to Bible teachers who believe in an ancient earth. He is referring to the so-called Gap theory which allows for geological ages to be placed between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 — a questionable exegesis of Genesis. His reference to 2 Peter 3:8 can also be reversed to understand that God can do in one day what it takes natural processes to accomplish in a thousand years!

Steve Simmons, pastor
Pineview Church, Hattiesburg

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Editor:

The article by David Dockery III was very well written. It established that he is indeed an expert in his field. He pointed out the various principles which Henry Morris violated in reaching his conclusions. However, I believe that Dockery omitted the most important principle of all—the Power of an Almighty God.

According to God's Word, he violated the principle of gravity when he parted the sea for his people to cross. He violated the principles of medical science when he healed the sick and made the blind to see. He violated the principle of life and death when he raised Lazarus (and others) from the dead.

Who is to say that the One who was able to support the weight of the sins of all mankind while being crucified would be unable to support the weight of an "ocean of water" in the upper atmosphere?

God specializes in "the physically impossible." (Matt. 19:26)

The earth could very well be 4.5 billion years old, or it could very well be only 10,000 years old. What difference does it make as long as we believe Genesis 1:1—"In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth..."?

L.V. Shoemaker
Collins

VIEW NOT SHARED

Editor:

I have a problem with the commentary written by David T. Dockery III on Henry Morris. First I must say that I personally disagree with his putting down of Morris' hypotheses on the earth. I realize that this article expresses his opinion and he has credibility because of his field of work. I also believe he

has not done much investigation into the years of research done at I.C.R. They have a staff of very credible scientists doing research. I have had the pleasure of meeting Morris and attending several Creation Seminars put on by ICR and Origins Resources of New Orleans, La. and all of them were held at Baptist churches. I have seen some overwhelming evidence of what Morris and ICR teach. It might be good if Dockery would attend one of these seminars.

I am not claiming to be an expert in the field but you should follow up this article with another from someone on the other side. As this article appears you would think that this is the view of The Baptist Record and I think that is wrong. If you are going to print this kind of article then let it be clear that this may not be the view of all Baptists because I can assure you that many thousands of Baptists do not think this way.

Scott Jones
Yazoo City

CHALLENGE TO DEBATE

Editor:

In answer to the commentary by David T. Dockery III, discrediting the work of Henry

Morris and ICR and approving the book by Hugh Ross, "Creation and Time," I suggest those interested read the strong rebuttal of the book also entitled "Creation and Time, A Report on the Progressive Creationist Book by Hugh Ross," by Van Bebbler and Paul Taylor, published by Eden Communications.

Ross denies that death entered into the world through Adam's sin (Rom. 5:12-21, Rom. 8:22-23), as God says in his Word, postulating millions and billions of years of death before Adam.

Since Dockery believes Morris erred, I courteously and in the love of Christ challenge him to a public debate on the subject of Young Earth/Old Earth with my friend, John Morris, Henry Morris' son. The facts are not as Dockery stated them, but Duane Gish, or any of the staff of ICR who regularly debate any geologist or evolutionist publically will be happy to hear his side, and present their own side more accurately and fully.

Since Dockery is a geologist and a Christian, he will be met in his own field on both counts, by Christian gentlemen well versed in both science and theology.

Floyd C. McElveen
Petal

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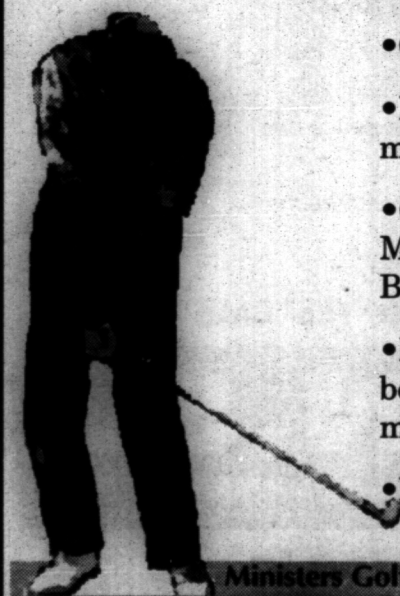
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FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Rely on God

Proverbs 3:1-8; 11-15

By Nancie E. Simmons

I am very fortunate to have my preacher and his wife as my Sunday School teachers. Sunday we talked about football, and I know what you're thinking: "what does football have to do with church?" To get the class in the correct frame of mind for the lesson, my preacher had us think of a school "fight song" or cheer. They usually end up saying things like "We're number one! We're number one!" He then posed the question of "who is number one in our lives?" Is it self or is it God?

Trust God's teaching (3:1-4). My husband is most fulfilled when he is fishing, hunting, or

playing on the water! I, on the other hand, am most fulfilled

when I am crafting, shopping, or cooking desserts. These activities fulfill us emotionally, but what or who fulfills you spiritually? I hope your answer is God.

Last week we learned that by having a relationship with God and studying his words we would find wisdom. God wants us to obey his commandments because they will show us how to live our lives. Obeying God's call will make us satisfied and fulfilled. Our obedience should never show fear or a sense of duty, but it should show our love and respect.



Simmons

Trust God's direction (3:5-8). Sometimes we put too much emphasis on ourselves and not enough on God. "Self" always gets in the way of our relationship with him. In our world we are being bombarded by ideas that tell us to have "No Fear" or to "Just Do It!" These ideas are telling us it is

okay to do exactly what we want without consulting anyone else.

In a culture that wants us to be self-sufficient, it is not the norm to put our trust blindly in something that we cannot see or touch. God wants us to trust him completely with our mind, body, and soul. He does not want us to think it out first in our mind before we ask for help; he wants to be consulted first. We have to push "self" out of the way and make an effort to include God in our lives. His reward for removing that pride will be a holy companionship that will never leave us

lonely and will fill any void.

Trust God's discipline (3:11-12). I am a sinner through and through, but I have been saved by Jesus' blood. I still battle with sin everyday even though I am a Christian. God expects us to obey his commands, but he also gives us the choice to do that or not. When I am determined to do things my way I waste God's time and miss his blessings!

At school I am faced sometimes with a child who is determined to break the rules that I have set as my standards. I have to take action to try to get this child's attention before the whole class is disrupted. Sometimes this child will have to sit for a short amount of time while we continue with the music lesson and having a fun time. This is the same with God. He sets the standards and when we choose not to obey them then he will correct us. Unfortunately we may miss some of the "fun activities" that

he has planned for us.

Trust God's wisdom (3:13-15). The last few verses in today's lesson remind me of another favorite chorus (sorry, music is my profession) which says "Lord, you are more precious than silver, Lord you are more costly than gold. Lord you are more beautiful than diamonds, and nothing I desire compares to you." He will supply all our needs and bring us through any hardship if we will rely on him. Who else on Earth will do this for us if we just ask them?

It is important to believe in the Bible and in God because they will give us wisdom to face the sin around us. God wants to be "number one" in our lives, and if we choose to put him in this place we will always be on the winning team!

Simmons teaches music at Harper McCaughan Elementary and is a member of First Church, Gulfport.

LIFE AND WORK

Accept responsibility

Matthew 7:3-5; James 4:1-3; 7-12

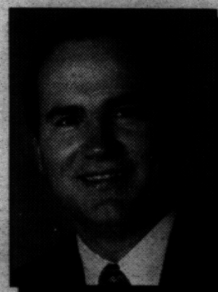
By Kevin Hand

"Don't blame me." "It's not my fault." "I couldn't help it." Failure to accept responsibility is a major problem in our society. Shifting the blame, sometimes referred to as "passing the buck," is not a recent phenomenon — it is as old as sin. You remember the tragic scene in the Garden of Eden when God confronted Adam and Eve about their sin. The man blamed the woman and the woman blamed the snake.

Accepting responsibility is important, especially in conflict resolution. Conflicts involve at least two parties. As the Roman rhetorician Seneca observed, "There is no battle unless there be two." Just as it takes two to tango, it takes two to tangle. It

has been said that "quarrels would not last long if the fault were only on one side." Unfortunately, when we are in conflict situations, we often blame others. We tend to focus on the attitude and behavior of others and to justify our own actions. Such responses usually prolong or escalate a conflict. When we acknowledge and accept responsibility for the part we had in a conflict, we open the door for resolution.

Accepting personal responsibility is one of the themes of author Ken Sande's *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict* (Baker Books). In his book he listed "The Seven A's of Confession": ADDRESS everyone involved (all those you



Hand

have affected); AVOID if, but, and maybe (don't try to excuse your wrongs); ADMIT specifically (both attitudes and actions); APOLOGIZE (express sorrow for hurting someone); ACCEPT the consequences (such as making restitution); ALTER your behavior (change your attitudes and actions); and, ASK for forgiveness.

Like Sande, we need to know what the Bible says about accepting responsibility. In this week's lesson, we will examine some biblical passages which will help us understand the necessity of evaluating ourselves in light of God's Word and owning up to our part in a conflict.

Evaluate yourself (Matt. 7:3-5). Jesus warned his disciples not to be hypocrites. The term "hypocrite" comes from the Greek word *hupokrites* which referred to an actor or stage-player, i.e. someone who wore drama masks and played different characters.

Jesus told the disciples to be honest and real. He instructed them to do some self-reflection and to remove the flaws, errors, and sins from their lives before attempting to help others clean up their lives. Before Christians blame or criticize others, they are to evaluate themselves and accept responsibility for their part in a conflict.

Recognize conflict's source (James 4:1-3). The main reason Christians quarrel, feud and fight is sin. When there is strife and discord in the church, sin is at the heart of the matter. James said sensual, selfish desires caused conflicts between believers, adversely affected their relationships with God, and hurt the church. In addition, James informed his readers that the reason they did not receive what they asked for was that they prayed with selfish motives.

Christians in a conflict situation need to admit their sinful actions and face up to their sinful desires and attitudes, which

are the root cause of most conflicts. Godly wisdom will give us this perspective. Earthly wisdom produces conflict; God's wisdom produces peace (James 3:13-18).

Submit to God's Judgment (James 4:7-12). Using ten imperatives in four verses (vv.7-10), James called his readers to submission and repentance. He warned that Christians who speak evil against others set themselves up as judges and assume a position that belongs only to God.

In conflict situations many people tend to rationalize their actions and judge themselves by their own or society's standards. Christians are to submit themselves to God and his standard in Scripture when they are evaluating their part in a conflict.

Resolving conflict is important to God. Therefore, it should be important to us.

Hand is pastor of First Church, Magee.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Talking about my faith

I Peter 3:13-22

By William H. Sims, III

Today's lesson encourages us to share our faith without fear and be ready at occasion to share your faith. No one should remain silent of their faith because of all the goodness bestowed from the Lord.

Encouragement (3:13-17). Peter foresaw the possibility of persecution coming to the saints, largely because of their faith. His rhetorical question in verse 13 appears to suggest that Christians who live righteously are less likely to face suffering. This is not the true meaning. Whoever told you that following Jesus will be a bed of roses has not lived totally for their

Lord. Standing on the Word of God brings rejection, suffering, and denial from the carnal crowd. Knowing this truth, Jesus will grant us courage to live for him.

"Happy" in verse 4 is the identical word used nine times in the Beatitudes, and is translated "blessed." Peter continued to encourage his readers by telling them, "do not fear their fear." Persecution know takes a back-seat to those suffering. We should count it a joy to suffer for Christ. This joy is based on the fact that our obedience to Jesus has not declined.

Starting in verse 15, Peter told his readers how to be



Sims

equipped against persecution. He commanded them to "sanctify," or have a special place in their hearts, for the Lord. Placing the Lord first in our hearts brings hope and power among persecution.

Every believer should memorize verse 15. It reminds us of our responsibility to witness for Jesus. If our condition is blessed or bleak we are to be ready to share. Daily, I am reminded of the disciples, who, even though severely attacked, preached Jesus! Whatever we go through, troubles or trials, Jesus MUST be shared.

This section concludes with Peter exhorting us to rejoice when we suffer for Jesus. Though the righteous suffer, the plan of God will advance. God's purposes are not lost when believers partake in

Christ's suffering. We need to read Romans 8:28 to be encouraged that God is in control.

Explanation (3:18-22). With persecution so strong on the minds of the readers, Peter naturally turned to write of the supreme example — Jesus Christ. The adverb "once" in verse 18 actually means once for all. The meaning is of eternal value, never needing to be repeated. The sacrifice of Christ on the cross was sufficient for all the sins of the people.

The word "bring" translates a Greek word that was used of the royal attendant who cleared the way and brought a guest into the presence of a king. Christ's vicarious sacrifice qualified him to bring sinners into the very presence of God. This verse should be shouting ground for every believer. We are fully accepted, only because of Jesus. His suffering brought sinners to eternal life that has no end.

Verses 19-20 represent some difficult interpretation. Peter stated that Jesus preached through his Spirit to certain ones who were disobedient to God. Christ proclaimed judgment on the evil spirits, and sealed their doom and victoriously conquered sin, hell, and the grave. Victory is ours only because of Jesus.

Our lesson concludes on a solid truth concerning the power of Jesus. Jesus has completed his work of redemption, and now sits in power. Jesus is dominant over good and evil because of resurrection power. This truth encouraged Peter's readers. Whatever we face, Jesus will bless us, because we are his to command.

Our message is clear and convicting. Jesus is Lord. Death, and defeat are no threat to those who live for Christ. Daily tell others, Jesus saves and sustains.

Sims is pastor of First Church, Pontotoc.



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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EWHC PWBGG EWH
MSCT PBI XCEV EWH
VC WSP NSTWE WBCO,
LVDH, IH FGHPHO VR
DI RBEWHN, SCWHNSE
EWH MSCTOVD ZNHZBN-
HO RVN IX RNVD EWH
RVXCOBESVC VR EWH
YVNGO.

DBEEWHY EYHCEI-RSKH:

EWSNEI-RVXN

Clue: M = K

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Ezekiel Twenty Twenty.

Analysis: Christians can reverse hostility

By Erich Bridges
International Mission Board

ROANOKE, Va. (BP) — The Kurdish Muslim family fled northern Iraq in 1996, fearful of Saddam Hussein's threat to kill Kurds who helped the American-led force based there.

They settled in a working-class neighborhood in Roanoke, Va. Ramadan Abdulrahman found a job to support his wife and children. They began to adjust to life in America — until the "welcome wagon" arrived.

Laundry disappeared from their clothesline. Bicycles got

snatched from their porch. Eggs pelted their house nearly every night; the family finally quit wiping away the ugly yellow smears. Police said the likely perpetrators are a group of intolerant locals.

Abdulrahman is bewildered. "In Iraq, we welcome new neighbors into our homes," he told a reporter. "But here, why must people do such things?"

Good question. The Kurds, largely unreached by the gospel and long abused or ignored by their Mideast neighbors, are one of the world's largest people groups (up to 30 million strong) without a

national home to call their own.

A newspaper photo showed Abdulrahman's 4-year-old daughter, Imam, peering from behind the egg-streaked glass of their front door. Her pretty little face reveals a mixture of fear, sadness, and budding anger. What will she tell her Kurdish relatives back in Iraq about the welcome she received in "Christian" America?

God commands more than 40 times in the Old Testament that his people shelter, aid, and defend needy strangers. A typical example: "The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the Lord your God" (Lev. 19:34, NIV). Jesus reinforced that principle in his words and actions.

Hospitality to strangers is more than a general biblical principle, however. It's a specific, strategic way to spread the gospel far beyond our borders — even if you never cross them.

The United States, cultural crossroads of the world, attracts foreigners like a 3.6 million-square-mile magnet. Foreign-

born residents here account for about one in 11 people — double the percentage counted in 1970. Even more significant from a mission strategy perspective, 20 million or more internationals visit America each year.

Most foreign visitors are tourists and ship or airline crew members who pass through quickly.

Several million — representing more than 185 countries — take up temporary residence while studying at American universities, conducting business or representing their governments.

One list of current world leaders who have attended U.S. schools includes 11 presidents, six prime ministers, and two kings. Some future immigration or economic official studying in your city right now might one day open history-changing doors to the gospel in his homeland.

Do you have the gift of hospitality? Why not add an international dimension to it?

By becoming a missionary "welcomer" at home, you might make as big an impact for the kingdom as missionary goers.



NO WELCOME WAGON — Four-year-old Imam Abdulrahman and her mother gaze through their storm door — splattered with eggs thrown by hostile American neighbors. "In Iraq, we welcome new neighbors," said Imam's father. "But here, why must people do such things?" The Kurdish family fled for their lives from Iraq. God commands more than 40 times in Scripture that his people shelter and defend needy strangers. Hospitality to strangers also is a strategic way to spread the gospel far beyond U.S. borders — even if you never cross them. (BP photo by Bruce Ely. Copyright 1998 Roanoke Times)

Befriending internationals

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Here are some ways to minister to internationals entering your community:

- Sponsor a refugee family. For information, call the North American Mission Board's refugee resettlement office at (770) 410-6353.
- Teach English as a second language to internationals.
- Begin a Bible study for internationals.
- Call the Baptist Student Union, campus minister, or international student office at colleges near you to discover existing programs for students from abroad.
- Check with area businesses, military bases, medical centers, and foreign consulates to locate internationals working or training in your community.
- Become a "friendship family" to an international, keeping in touch regularly by telephone and including him or her in a family activity at least once a month.

For information on these and other opportunities to be a missionary "welcomer," call the International Mission Board's international outreach office at (804) 219-1349.



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LifeAnswers

My adult child (early 20s) is in a relationship that I can see is headed for tragedy. How do I approach her about this?

Study the role of the father in the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-31). The loving father undoubtedly understood that his son was heading for disaster — and his heart undoubtedly broke over his son's poor decisions — but the father allowed his son to leave. My guess is that by this time, the father had pleaded, lectured, and counseled against his son's plans to no avail. He let him go. We know that the son in this parable did come to his senses and return to his father's house. If your daughter indeed chooses to travel the path of the prodigal son, will she be able to return to you when she comes to her senses? She knows how you feel about this relationship. She knows how God feels about it. She has simply decided to listen to other voices which are pulling her to distraction. If she goes her own way, pray for her and stay in touch. It's likely she will return, and you will be there to help her through the hurt and hopefully guide her away from repeating this mistake.

I just discovered my new husband has a conviction in another state for child molesting. He is working with the youth choir at our church; should I tell the pastor?

Put yourself in the pastor's position. Of course he should know! All of us carry baggage through life, but when it comes to the safety of children there is no reason to hold back the information you have uncovered. Talk with your husband about this matter and insist that the two of you see the pastor. Allow the pastor to assist the two of you in walking through this situation. If your husband continues to work with the youth choir, it is not unreasonable to demand that another person be present whenever he is in the company of young people. Because of his past, he must be accountable in the present. Talk with your pastor and your husband about recruiting godly men to help him in this accountability process. A successful outcome will be based on confession, honesty, and a period of testing (accountability). Pray that God will grant both of you wisdom to see this process through to the end.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.